

Implementing Precision Approaches Supported by Satellite-Based Augmentation Systems in the Austrian Alps

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Aerodromes located in mountainous areas are seldom served by approaches with three-dimensional guidance based on instrument landing systems due to the lack of flexibility to define glide paths free of obstacles. But, three-dimensional approaches are always preferred due to their effectiveness against controlled flight into terrain. Free access to three-dimensional angular approaches is possible today without special authorization and ground infrastructure. Some airports in mountainous areas of the United States, Canada, and Europe already benefit from them due to the latest advances in satellite-based augmentation techniques. The majority of these procedures have not been developed as category-one precision approaches, even though the latest operational service level foresees it. Reported here are the signal assessment and procedure design carried out to enable the first category-one precision approach supported by satellite-based augmentation system at an Austrian airport surrounded by one of the most challenging terrains worldwide. The design and implementation of such a procedure in mountainous terrain is feasible after a thorough signal quality assessment. It can be placed where a classical instrument landing-system-based approach procedure does not work and provides precision guidance for aircraft in instrument meteorological conditions. This in turn enables a higher runway throughput and reduces cost for the users. When the controlling obstacle is located outside of the precision segment, special attention should be put on the availability requirements.

I. Introduction

AERODROMES in demanding mountainous environments are usually served by two-dimensional (2-D) approach procedures without vertical guidance to achieve lower minima by establishing stepdown descent profiles. However, the absence of vertical guidance increases significantly the likelihood of controlled flight into terrain (CFIT) due to loss of situational awareness and high cockpit workload during approach and landing in instrument meteorological conditions when any outside references can only be visually acquired shortly before landing. CFIT is a type of aircraft accident in which an airworthy aircraft with full pilot control is unintentionally flown into the ground, into a mountain, or into an obstacle. Usually, the flight crew is oblivious of the imminent danger. The International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO's) Assembly Resolution A37-11 urges member states to implement instrument approach procedures (IAPs) with vertical guidance, wherever possible, as an effective mitigation against CFIT. An IAP is a repeatable and charted method to conduct an approach for landing at an airport. It safely guides the aircraft from arrival altitude to a point from which the landing can be performed.

The recent developments in the field of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSSs) and its augmentations have opened up a new spectrum of possibilities in aviation. Concretely, the satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS) [1] now enables three-dimensional (3-D) instrument landing system (ILS)-like approaches, also known as localizer performance with vertical guidance (LPV). Both provide angular deviations from the centerline and glide path to the pilot, but the ILS does so by means of ground-based radio transmitters, whereas LPV is computed from GNSS position data. LPV approaches

have proven to be a cost-efficient solution to overcome airspace limitations and reduce noise impact [2]. Legacy design criteria and available levels of service, known as the approach procedure with vertical guidance (APV), have supported LPV operations down to 250 ft above runway threshold for many years. With the improvement of the signal performance, new operational service levels and design criteria have been defined to support LPV operations down to 200 ft, qualifying these types of procedures as precision approaches for the first time. This is called LPV200 or LPV category-one (CAT-I). As of January of 2019 there are around 4000 LPV operational approaches in the United States of America (USA), 400 in Canada, and around 500 in Europe. India and Japan are expected to publish their first LPV approaches in the near future. However, the implementation of precision approaches in complex mountainous environments is still marginal. High aerodrome operating minima in terms of decision height (DH) and the blockage of satellite signals by terrain (also known as terrain masking) are the most common limiting factors [3,4]. DH is the minimum height above ground at which the pilot must have established visual reference to the landing runway. If this is not the case, he or she must follow a predetermined missed approach procedure. The LPV approaches to the Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport (ICAO code KRCV) from the east and to Mc Elroy Airfield (ICAO code K20V) from the north in the state of Colorado constitute good examples of approaches in challenging terrain with landing minima well above 250 ft [5]. In the USA, LPVs are designed as category-one precision approaches only if the corresponding landing minima can be below 250 ft as, for example, the approach to Jackson Hole (ICAO code KJAC) from the north in the state of Wyoming [5]. This is not always the case in Europe, where a mixture of legacy APVs and new CAT-I LPVs can be found serving runways where prevailing terrain precludes CAT-I landing minima below 250 ft. For example, the LPV approaches to Sogndal (ICAO code ENSG) (Norway) from the east [6] and to Annecy (ICAO code LFLP) (France) from the south [7] were designed as CAT-I precision approaches, even though the resulting DH lies well above 250 ft, thus discarding any possibility of CAT-I operations based on the SBAS. On the other hand, LPV approaches in similar environments, such as those to the regional airport of Bern-Belp (ICAO code LSZB) (Switzerland) [8], were designed as APVs and not as precision approaches.

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The fact that LPV approaches are independent of ground infrastructure is of particular relevance for small general and business aviation aerodromes where the costs of instrument landing aids do not fulfill the business case or where the topography impedes the optimal placement of such. The Austrian airport of Innsbruck, under ICAO code LOWI, represents a good example of this limitation. This airport lies in a valley flanked by high and steep mountains (see Fig. 1), which can pose a great challenge to pilots and air traffic controllers in combination with adverse weather. Accessibility to Innsbruck airport is key to the economic development of the region, especially during the winter season. For that reason, Innsbruck is a breeding ground for some of the most innovative flight procedures worldwide.

The most advanced 3-D approaches currently implemented in Innsbruck are based on the navigation specification of required navigation performance (RNP)/authorization required (AR), referred to as RNP-AR, and are flown by most airliners with special authorization. A navigation specification can be seen as a set of aircraft and crew requirements that need to be met for a specific phase of flight. The navigation specification also defines the navigational tolerances that are to be used to create the containment areas and assess obstructions according to the specific design criteria. A detailed list of the available navigation specification to date can be found in Ref. [9]. RNP-AR capabilities are traditionally out of scope for the general aviation community due to the increased costs associated with more demanding training and airworthiness certification requirements. No 3-D approach procedure based on standard RNP navigation specification (without special authorization required), conventional ILS, or a combination of both could be implemented until now in Innsbruck due to topographic constraints. As a consequence, most general aviation inbound flights to runway 26 (standard approach configuration) still rely on a 2-D offset localizer/distance measuring equipment (LOC/DME) approach. In a LOC/DME approach procedure, the lateral guidance is provided by a very high-frequency-based localizer directional aid [10] and distance information is provided by ultrahigh frequency distance measuring equipment (DME). In this nonprecision approach, the vertical path is managed by the pilot through altitude restrictions at stepdown fixes. Despite the existence of a steep advisory glide slope at a nonstandard vertical path angle (VPA) in Innsbruck, the publication of standard 3-D approaches can contribute to lowering the risk of CFIT by enabling better aircraft energy management during the approach with less pilot workload. The safety benefits are even more evident if the approach guidance system provides the user with angular sensitivity and geometrical vertical guidance. This type of vertical guidance is not subject to barometric altimetry errors such as temperature variations and Bernoulli effects, which are very common in mountainous areas. Moreover, GNSS-guided approaches eliminate critical areas in the final approach due to reflection of the glide slope and/or localizer beams.

In this paper, we describe the implementation process carried out to make possible the first 3-D approach with angular sensibility at the alpine airport of Innsbruck, based on SBAS and with no special authorization requirement.

II. Signal Analysis

We considered European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) as the most appropriate technological means to date in order to provide approach navigation service to the general and business aviation community in Innsbruck. EGNOS is a SBAS, i.e., an enhanced differential Global Positioning System (GPS) that provides signal corrections plus signal quality parameters to users. The user can then augment its measurements to compute a more precise position. SBAS provides means for high-quality approaches that do not depend on ground-based navigational aids and do not require any special approval. Since 2015, EGNOS offers the LPV200 service level on a free-of-charge basis in an extensive area across Europe [11]. This service level supports 3-D approach operations of type B down to 200 ft above runway threshold elevation [12], whereas the legacy LPV service level does down to 250 ft. The LPV200 service also enables the application of ICAO CAT-I design criteria with less restrictive obstacle assessment surfaces (OASs) [13]. Further details on Global Navigation Satellite System signal-in-space requirements for SBAS CAT-I design criteria can be found in Ref. [14]. Before undertaking the design phase of the flight procedure, it is of paramount importance to ensure the availability of the required signal in the area of interest. Given the complex topography of the alpine area of Innsbruck and its possible effects on the augmented navigational signal, we decided to use a combined approach based on both simulations and on-site measurements.

A. Terrain Masking

To predict EGNOS performance in Innsbruck, we used a digital terrain model of the mountainous topography surrounding the airport with a spatial resolution of 50 m. We chose seven characteristic points on the existing runway (RWY) 26 localizer (LOC) approach at which we calculated satellite elevation masks due to the terrain with a resolution of 5 deg in azimuth (see Fig. 1). Obstructions due to terrain become more prominent the lower on the approach the aircraft is located. Figure 2 shows that, at the lowest point on the existing LOC/DME approach (at 3.5 n miles of DME distance), both EGNOS satellites are still visible to the user. The position of the EGNOS broadcast satellite Pseudo Random Noise (PRN) 120 is marked in red, whereas the PRN 136 is marked in black. The terrain elevation mask can reach up to 16 deg at a direction of 345 deg from the airport. However, in the north, there are few satellites visible due to the Global Positioning System orbital geometry.

B. Protection Level Prediction

To assess EGNOS performance for the LPV200 service level in Innsbruck, we need to calculate a prediction of integrity data in the form of protection levels as calculated by a receiver in real time. Protection levels correspond to the ad hoc estimate of the position uncertainty with a probability of one minus the integrity risk. In other words, if the integrity risk is 2×10^{-7} , then the user is 99.99998% certain that the estimated position is within the cylinder defined by radius horizontal protection level (HPL) and height vertical protection

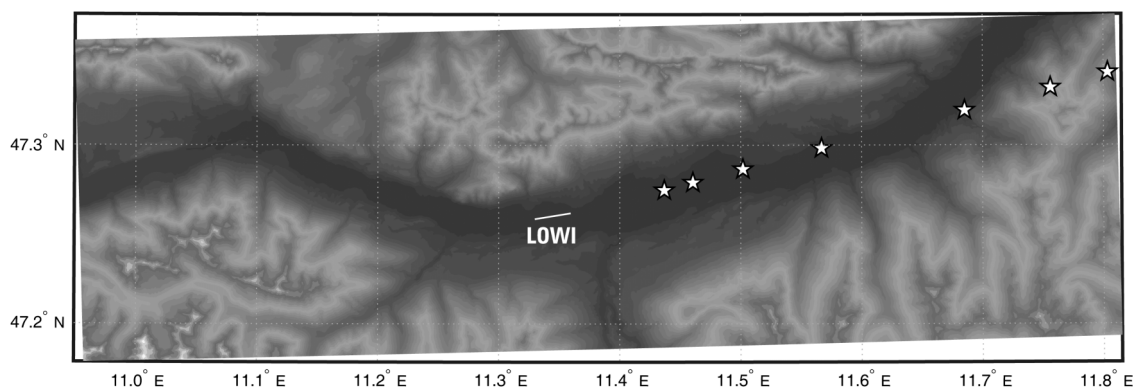


Fig. 1 Terrain elevation around Innsbruck airport (ICAO identifier LOWI) and characteristic points. Light tones represent the highest elevations.

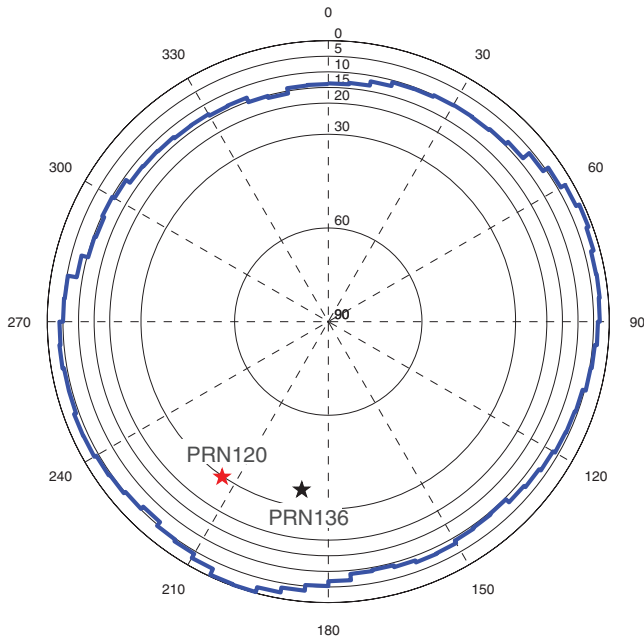


Fig. 2 Terrain elevation mask (vertical axis in degrees) at 3.5 DME and 1410 ft Above Ground Level (AGL) on LOC approach to Innsbruck RWY 26. Azimuth axis in degrees (0 represents true north). Inside the blue line, satellites are visible to the GNSS receiver. Outside the blue line, terrain obscures and blocks signal reception.

level (VPL). Details on the SBAS message and the calculation of augmented user position and integrity data can be found, for example, in Ref. [15]. The main model parameters needed for the calculation of the protection levels are the satellite geometry, the user differential range error index (UDREI), and the grid ionosphere vertical error index (GIVEI). UDREIs are 4 bit integer data that are broadcast by the SBAS satellites and used to indicate the accuracy of combined fast and long-term error corrections. The SBAS system assigns an integer from 0 through 15 to each GNSS constellation satellite that is monitored. By means of a lookup table in Ref. [15], a variance is assigned and used in the computation of position and protection levels. Similarly, the SBAS broadcasts information about the current state of the ionosphere. These data consist of the vertical ionosphere signal delay and the GIVEI. Again, the GIVEI are 4 bit integer values from 0 to 15 describing the variance of the ionosphere delay estimate at each grid point. To compute a meaningful prediction of the protection levels, and thus EGNOS performance, we need to make qualified assumptions on those quantities. They are also the main input parameters of Stanford University's MATLAB Algorithm Availability Simulation Tool (MAAST) [16]. MAAST provides proven program code for simulation of the GPS constellation based on ephemeris data and user location as well as performance tools to analyze navigation integrity, availability, continuity, and accuracy. We calculated predicted approach protection levels using a current almanac (basic set of parameters describing a satellite orbit [17]) from GPS week 841 (+1024) and the Stanford MAAST Toolkit. Since the standard MAAST does not foresee to use different UDREIs and GIVEIs per satellite, we modified the open software to include this functionality. Details on MAAST can be found in Ref. [16]. To obtain a realistic value for the GIVEI and UDREI, we ran a statistical analysis over all GIVEI data for the EGNOS in band 4 and band 5 located over central Europe. Bands 4 and 5 are sufficient because they cover most of the central European landmass. An overview of the grid point locations and bands can be found in RTCA Standard DO-229D [15]. The EGNOS message data were obtained from the EGNOS message ftp server.[§] We used functions of RTKlib to decode the raw messages and extract the relevant GIVEI data. Details on the RTKlib

functionality can be found in Ref. [18]. We also performed a statistical analysis on the UDREI per PRN. From the statistical data, we calculated the mean of the UDREI for 2015 and rounded up to the nearest integer value. Using MAAST and the average GIVEI and UDREI from 2015, as well as the satellite elevation masks based on terrain, we computed 24 h predictions of the protection levels at each one of the previously identified points. The results are shown in Fig. 3. This figure shows the VPL at different DME distances n miles on the current LOC/DME approach and the number of satellites used. As the altitude on the approach increases, the terrain obstruction diminishes and more satellites become visible. This, in turn, decreases the protection level. As expected, the lowest selected point at 3.5 n miles gives the least satellite visibility and the largest protection level.

We can see that the VPL at the 4.5- n -mile DME position at times of 5.5 and 12 h has a higher value than the one at the 3.5- n -mile DME. At first sight, this appears contradictory since the point is located higher on the approach path. However, the Wipp Valley shifts its position relative to the user, causing a different satellite masking. The Wipp Valley is located to the south of Innsbruck and leads to the Brenner Pass, which is the main transit route from the Austrian Alps to Italy. Relative to the approach to Innsbruck airport, it provides an area of unobstructed view of the sky in the south. Therefore, from this location, signals from GPS satellites can be received. From Fig. 1, we can see that, relative to the points at which the EGNOS performance is being evaluated, this patch of clear view to the sky changes position, and thus masks different portions of the sky at low elevation. If a satellite is being removed from the navigation solution, the protection level increases.

SBAS CAT-I approaches supported by EGNOS LPV200 service require a vertical alert limit (VAL) of 35 m and a horizontal alert limit (HAL) of 40 m [11]. Given these requirements and the outcome of the MAAST simulation, we predict 100% availability in Innsbruck in the normal case; i.e., no GPS satellite is out of service.

Furthermore, we simulated satellite failure of various satellites during the day. The satellites were chosen as the ones giving the highest increase in dilution of precision when removed successively. The results, displayed in Fig. 4, show conformance with the required availability (99% as per Ref. [14]) based on the parameters of the prediction. Even if two or more critical satellites failed, leading to very short violations of the required VAL at very specific moments during the day, the impact on the service operation would be far from relevant. This is due to the probability of an unscheduled single satellite failure interruption. According to Ref. [19], it is less than 0.0002, making a dual satellite failure highly unlikely at 4×10^{-8} .

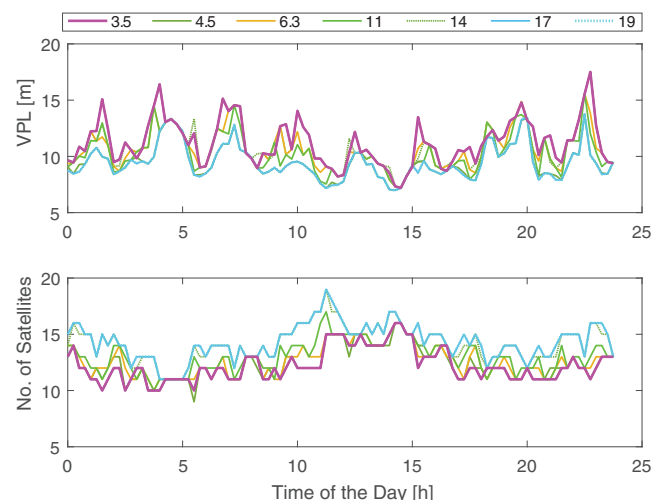


Fig. 3 Vertical protection levels at different DME distances (nautical miles) on the current LOC/DME approach (top) and number of satellites used (bottom). The alert limit in the top graph is 35 m and not shown since it would obscure data variations.

[§]Data available online at <ftp://ems.estec.esa.int/pub/> [retrieved 27 October 2016].

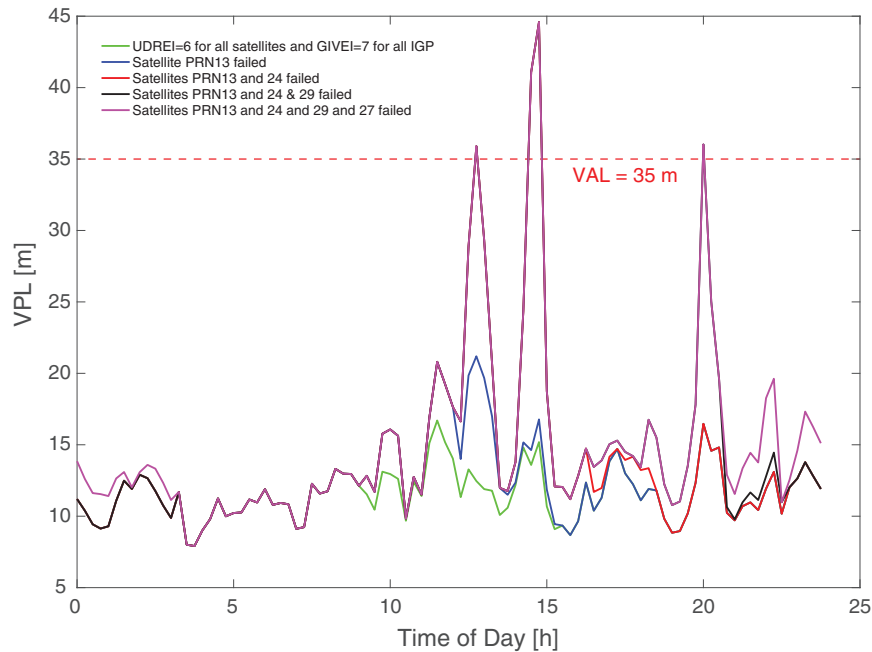


Fig. 4 Vertical protection levels at the airport assuming several satellite failures throughout the day.

C. Availability Measurements

To confirm the results of the simulations with MAAST, we performed a 24 h error measurement campaign at Innsbruck airport from 1 March 2017 at 1200 hrs until 2 March 2017 at 1300 hrs local time, as in the submitted manuscript. One extra hour was added due to more time available for recording data. We used the permanent GNSS L1/L2 antenna mounted on the localizer shelter that usually provides reference data for the calibration of the localizer signal. To have comparable results, we added this position as point D0.0 to the MAAST Simulation and reran the prediction for this additional point again. During a measurement campaign, main parameters can be different from the ones used in the simulation. The most important one is the satellite almanac used for the simulation and the orbital parameters of the actual constellation during the measurements. Figure 5 shows the differences between varying the input parameters of the UDREI, GIVEI, and age of the almanac of the MAAST,

bringing the prediction closer to reality. The largest impact on the calculation of the protection levels is provided by the almanac used to simulate satellite orbits. Using the averaged UDREI or averaged GIVEI only influences the computation of the protection levels at an average of 7.7% as the protection levels map the residual pseudorange error into the position domain. The mapping function is computed from the satellite orbits, whereas the residual pseudorange error is provided by the UDREI and GIVEI. Since, on a regular day (no solar flares, no satellite clock runaways, etc.), the transmitted error indices are relatively close to their mean value, the use of the actual value does not influence the protection level much. Using an older almanac with a significant change in orbital parameters has a great influence on the mapping function and can lead to a change in protection levels to the point that the correlation between the simulation results is close to zero. Figure 6 shows the protection level as measured on 1 March 2017 at the localizer shelter of Innsbruck

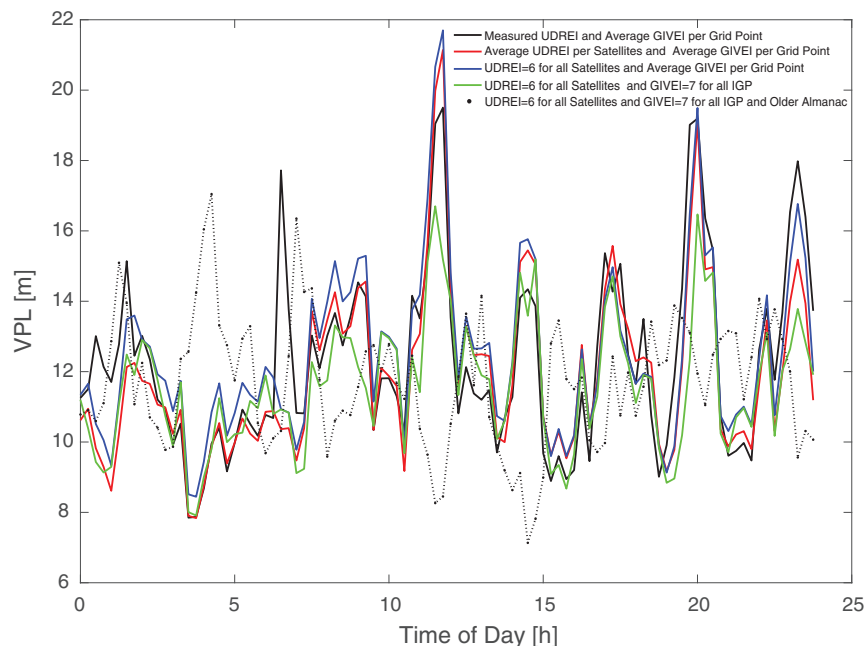


Fig. 5 Comparison of the VPL performance between different prediction methods.

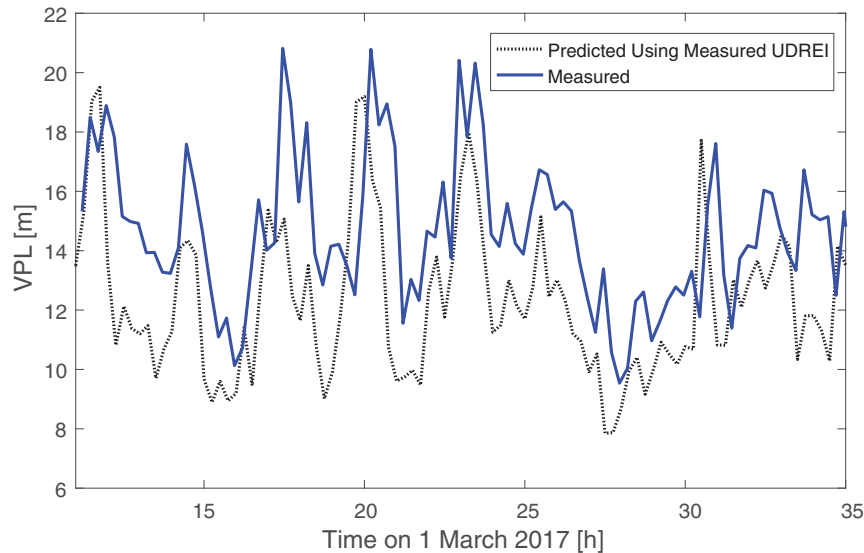


Fig. 6 Measured vs predicted vertical protection levels: GIVEI fixed values, almanac from 1 March 2017, and broadcast UDREI.

Airport compared with a prediction that uses the almanac of March 1 and the UDREI as measured in Innsbruck. We can see that the prediction does come on average within 14.7% of reality. It is not exactly the same since the prediction uses an average GIVEI per grid point.

We still see 100% availability of EGNOS LPV200 if the prediction is based on the almanac of March 1 and the measured UDREI (see Fig. 7).

Finally, we ruled out integrity and availability problems by generating Stanford plots with the measured position error and protection level data. These plots are shown in Figs. 8a and 8b, and they confirm that the system operates within the usable and safe range (i.e., actual navigational error bounded by protection levels and protection levels bounded by alert limits).

To evaluate integrity and continuity of an SBAS system, actual navigation performance and protection levels are plotted as a 3-D histogram in an integrity plot. The integrity plot can be divided into four areas: For normal operations, the position error is smaller than the protection level which is in turn smaller than the alert limit (white area). The system is available and overbounding the actual position error correctly. If the protection level is larger than the alert limit the system is unavailable for use (yellow area). Should the position error exceed the protection level, misleading information is given by the system (red/pink area). In case the position error is larger than the alert limit, this misleading

information becomes hazardous to the aircraft (red area) since no guarantee for it to be within the protected area can be given [1].

Further information on Stanford plots can be found in Ref. [20]. Overall, all predictions and measurements are in line with the performance required to provide LPV200 service in Innsbruck.

III. Procedure Design

The specific design rules applicable to GNSS approaches are promulgated in the second volume of the Procedures for Air Navigation Services–Aircraft Operations (PANS-OPS) [13], including specific criteria for the intermediate, final, and missed approach segments in an SBAS context. These design criteria include the use of more flexible OASs based on a CAT-I precision approach whenever it can be supported by the appropriate service level. The EGNOS LPV200 service level proved sufficient performance in Innsbruck, as described in the previous section. As a result, we applied SBAS CAT-I procedure design criteria for this first implementation.

It is important to note that, even if CAT-I OASs are used for the design, the obstacle situation determines the obstacle clearance height (OCH), and therefore the type of operations possible after all. Nevertheless, the application of CAT-I design criteria can still be justified due to less stringent protection areas, even if the resulting operations lead to $DH \geq 250$ ft, and hence cannot be classified as 3-D approaches of type B CAT-I according to Annex 6 to the Chicago Convention of the ICAO [12].

The initial operational requirements that we defined in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders such as airport operator, air traffic controllers, and airlines can be summarized as follows: the resulting IAP had to be compatible with a procedural separation with visual flight rules traffic within the control zone (CTR), match the current visual precision approach path indicator settings with $VPA = 3.5$ deg, have a final approach segment with a length of around 6–8 n miles and, if possible, include a missed approach that imitates the current RNP-AR approach following the valley west of the runway. Above all, fulfilling these two last requirements posed the biggest challenge to the procedure design team and required certain tradeoff to produce an IAP with reasonable OCHs after many design iterations. Because of massive terrain penetrations in the protection areas, we replaced the straight missed approach path with a turn designated at a waypoint before the runway threshold. Likewise, we calculated an offset (4.7 deg) final approach segment of 9.2 n miles to keep the intermediate approach segment in an area where the aircraft still has enough altitude so as to keep the required minimum obstacle clearance (MOC). Any other attempts to shorten the final approach segment by excluding high terrain features on the sides of the Inn Valley proved

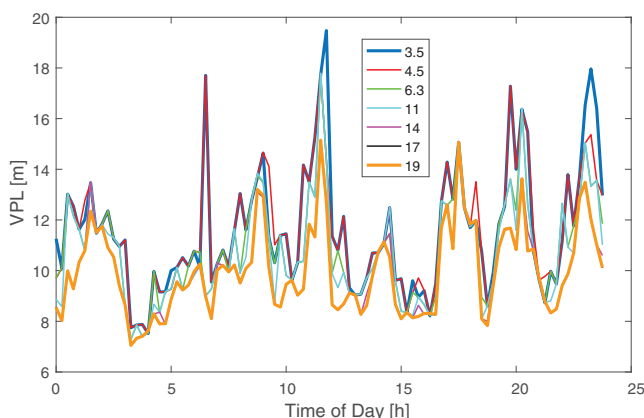


Fig. 7 Vertical protection levels at selected points (DME distances in nautical miles) on approach based on mean GIVEI, almanac data, and UDREI of March 1. Alert limit is, in all cases, 35 m.

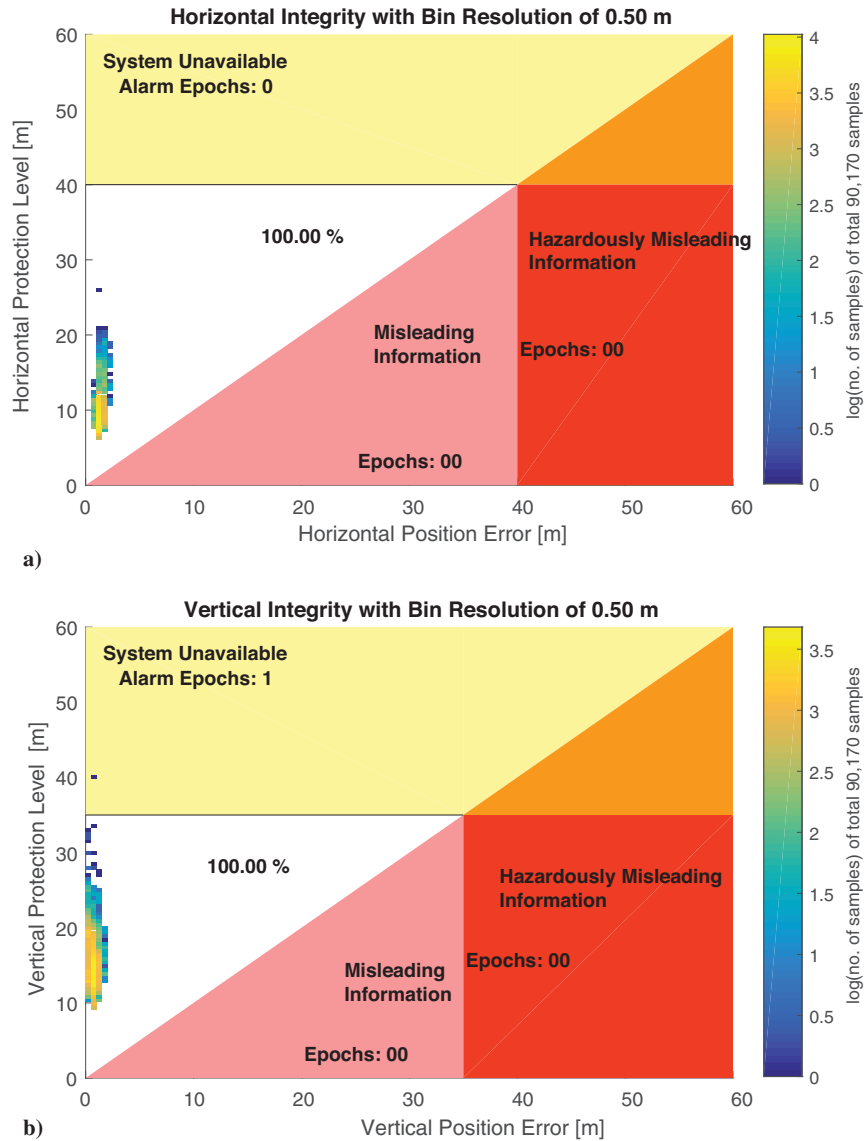


Fig. 8 Stanford diagram of the a) horizontal component and b) vertical component.

unfruitful due to the wide protection areas required by the navigation specification required navigation performance approach (RNP APCH). The final design, including calculated protection areas, can be seen in Figs. 9a and 9b.

We used the dedicated procedure design software Flight Procedure Design and Management from IDS AirNav[†] in combination with spreadsheets to create protection areas, assess obstructions, and validate the results. To that end, we imported an updated obstacle database and a digital terrain model [21] with a postspacing of approximately 50 m. into the software.

The procedure begins at the initial approach fix (IAF) (WI610) at 9500 ft above mean sea level (AMSL) to facilitate the access via air traffic control (ATC) vectors. The minimum radar vectoring altitude (MRVA) in the area is 9500 ft AMSL. The intermediate fix (IF) (WI612) has a procedural altitude of 6300 ft AMSL. Between the IAF and the IF, the waypoint WI611 serves as a stepdown fix to ensure a safe “dive-and-drive” descent without loss of obstacle clearance in case no continuous descent approach is executed. The procedural altitude at WI611 is 7200 ft AMSL. We draw on procedural altitudes in this design to keep descent gradients within standard ICAO values [13]. Procedural altitudes are always equal or greater than minimum obstacle clearance altitudes.

To minimize terrain obstructions due to the prominent topographical features of the valley, the intermediate approach segment contains a 28 deg track change to intercept the final approach course before the nominal final approach point (FAP). The overall length of the intermediate segment cannot be longer than 2 n miles for the same reason. As per the ICAO PANS-OPS design criteria [13], the straight component of the segment shall be equal or greater than 2 n miles. The straight component is, in this case, obviously less than 2 n miles due to the required track change at the IF (WI612); its actual length will be variable, depending on individual flight parameters such as radius of turn and bank establishment delay. Nevertheless, a conservative estimate can be derived by applying PANS-OPS minimum stabilization distances [13]. This yields a straight component of 0.8 n miles for the intermediate segment in the worst case (high speed, heavy aircraft). The current design criteria do not consider track changes of less than 50 deg, which is the reason why the results are even more conservative and far from reality in this case. This deviation from the design criteria was considered acceptable after the corresponding safety assessment and flight validation.

The semiwidth of the protection areas in the initial and intermediate approach segments is 2.5 n miles, including secondary areas. Secondary areas linearly decrease the full applicable MOC at their inner boundaries to zero at their outer boundaries. The applicable MOC for the initial and intermediate segments are 984 and 492 ft, respectively. To account for the switch of the receiver to the SBAS approach mode 2 n miles before the nominal FAP (WI613), the semiwidth of the

[†]Available online at <https://www.idsairnav.com/main-areas/aim/flight-procedure-design/fpdam/> [retrieved 4 June 2020].

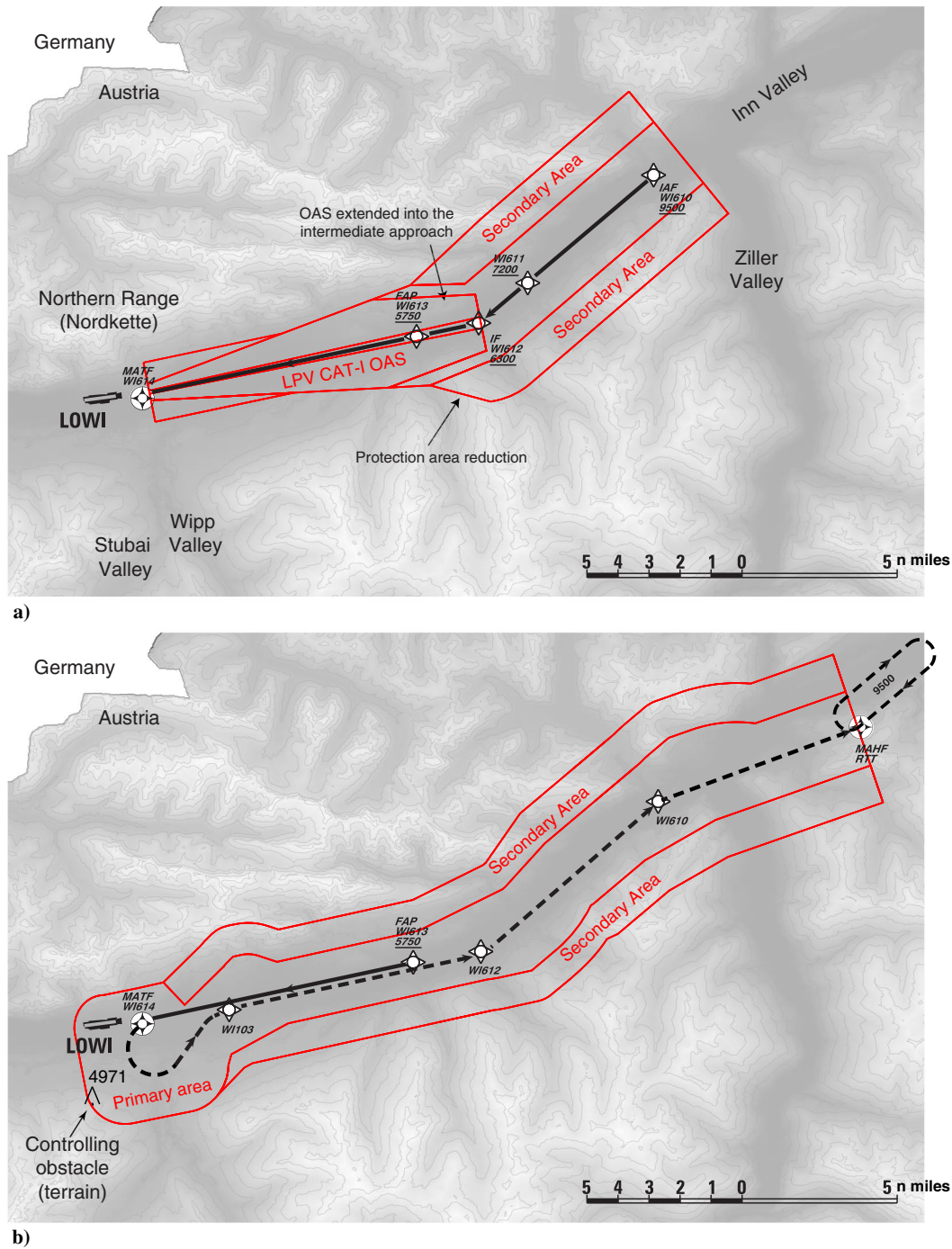


Fig. 9 Procedure tracks and protection areas of initial, intermediate, and final approaches including a) SBAS segment and b) the final missed approach. Note that altitudes and elevations are in feet.

protection areas reduces linearly to join the extension of the CAT-I OASs at the nominal FAP, and the OASs extend into the intermediate segment (see Fig. 9a).

Due to the final approach offset, the geometry of the final approach path is based on a fictitious runway aligned with the final approach track and with a fictitious threshold point (FTP) at the same elevation as the real threshold of RWY26. The GNSS azimuth reference point (GARP) point, equivalent to the conventional localizer antenna, is then set 305 m after the fictitious runway end to ensure a nominal course width of 105 m at the FTP (see Fig. 10). This is necessary to provide an appropriate sensitivity of the lateral deviations during final approach. A point lying on the same ellipsoidal plane (GPS height) as the FTP and located at the fictitious runway end acts as a flight-path alignment point (FPAP) and defines the alignment of the final approach segment along with the FTP. A lateral view of a generic final approach segment (FAS) is depicted in Fig. 11. Note

that the glide path intercept point (GPIP), which defines the origin of the vertical guidance, is not directly input by the procedure designer into the final approach segment data block, but its coordinates are computed by the SBAS equipment on board by using other main final approach segment parameters. The final approach segment data

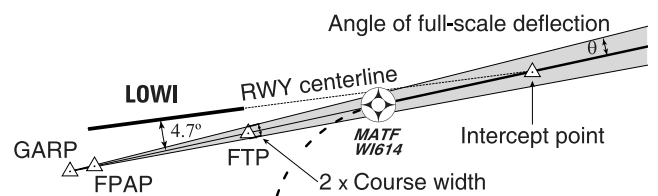


Fig. 10 Top view of the final approach segment geometry corresponding to the LPV approach to RWY26 in Innsbruck.

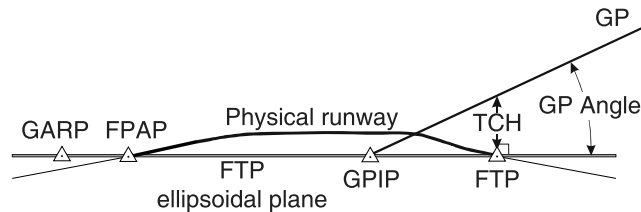


Fig. 11 Lateral view of a generic FAS (based on Ref. [13]).

block is a set of parameters, which contain all necessary information for the aircraft to calculate deviations relative to the desired final approach segment. It is described in Ref. [13] with the key parameters being the landing threshold point, the glide path (GP) angle, the threshold crossing height (TCH), and the full-scale course deviation indicator, given by the GARP and the course width or absolute lateral deviation when crossing the landing threshold. We used the EURO-CONTROL SBAS FAS Data Block online tool [22] to encode the final approach segment data block out of the many design inputs (see Table 1).

The height loss concept, widely used in 3-D approaches such as ILS and baro-VNAV [13], is applied as well to calculate the OCH within the precision segment spanning from the nominal FAP to the missed approach turning fix (MATF) (WI614). The OASs are identical to those of an ILS CAT-I, with the only difference that the side surfaces Y are always contained in a corridor with a semiwidth of 0.95 n miles to protect for an early missed approach, triggering a premature switch from angular to linear guidance (see Fig. 9a).

The position of the MATF (WI614) that initiates the final phase of the missed approach with a 180 deg turn is key to reach a reasonable OCH. High terrain obstructions on the side of the valley fall inevitably within the turn area. Only a thorough iterative selection of the way-point coordinates on the order of meters led to the best OCHs possible for different missed approach (MA) climb gradients. The final location of the MATF enables the turn at a point where the width of the Inn Valley makes it feasible. In this turn area, the Inn Valley intersects with the Wipp Valley in the south (see Fig. 9b).

Two important design considerations of the current criteria for this type of procedure have to be taken into account when selecting the final position of the MATF. The first one is related to the existing

Table 1 FAS Data Block for the LPV approach to RWY26 at Innsbruck International Airport (Austria)

Name	Value
Operation TYPE	0
SBAS Provider	1
Airport identifier	LOWI
Runway	26
Runway direction	0
Approach performance designator	0
Route indicator	E
Reference path data selector	0
Reference path identifier	E26A
Landing threshold point (LTP) latitude	471532.2960°N
LTP longitude	0112128.0660°E
LTP ellipsoidal height, m	626.0
FPAP Latitude	471517.7745°N
Delta FPAP latitude, s	-14.5215
FPAP longitude	0112000.3950°E
Delta FPAP longitude, s	-87.6710
TCH, ft	50.0
TCH units selector	0
Glide-path angle, deg	3.49
Course width, m	105.00
Length offset, m	0
HAL, m	40.0
VAL, m	35.0
Calculated cyclic redundancy check	53B35640
ICAO code	LO
LTP/FTP orthometric height, m	577.0
FPAP orthometric height, m	577.0

offset with respect to the extension of the runway centerline. According to PANS-OPS, the intercept point between the offset segment and the extension of the RWY centerline (see Fig. 10) has to reach a height of at least 180 ft above threshold. In our procedure, this intercept height is 790 ft above threshold. The lowest OCH allowed without considering obstacles is then calculated by adding 66 ft, which yields 856 ft. On the other hand, the position of the MATF and its associated along-track tolerance (ATT) of 0.24 n miles are of paramount importance because they define the beginning of the turn area that protects for the latest turn possible. To reduce the portion of high terrain obstructions captured by the turn area, a limitation on the radius of turn in still air is necessary. The radius of turn can be expressed as $R = (V^2 / g \tan \alpha)$, assuming a uniform stationary turn, where V represents true airspeed (TAS), g is the acceleration due to gravity, and α is the bank angle. The radius of turn is then used in combination with the effect of an omnidirectional wind factor of 30 kt to determine the drift of the outermost trajectory throughout the turn, which is also known as wind spiral (see Fig. 12). We established a maximum turn radius of 0.9 n miles by limiting the indicated air speed (IAS) to a maximum of 153 kt and demanding a bank angle of at least 25 deg during the missed approach turn. An IAS of 153 kt corresponds to a TAS of approximately 169 kt at the highest point possible of all nominal turns calculated for the various climb gradients and assuming a positive variation to the International Standard Atmosphere of 15°C. The restriction on the bank angle during the missed approach turn is a clear deviation to PANS-OPS design criteria [13], which foresee a bank angle of 15 deg for this phase of flight. This bank angle limitation is currently promulgated during the missed approach turn of the LOC/DME approach to the same runway and was likewise considered acceptable after the corresponding safety assessment and flight validation. According to the design criteria, the earliest missed approach turn (MATF-ATT) has to be coincident with the latest start of climb (SOC) to avoid turns with negative vertical speed (see Fig. 12). The SOC is the point at which the aircraft begins to climb after initiating a go-around. This results in the lowest SOC being possible at the point where 548 ft above RWY threshold are reached along the final approach path. For Aircraft Approach Category C (CAT-C) operations, and considering the penalty added to the corresponding height loss for VPA >3.2 deg, the lowest possible OCH for the procedure would be 712 ft. These two limitations are below the OCH imposed by the controlling obstacle for the different missed approach climb gradients published (see the minima box on the bottom left-hand side of the chart in Fig. 13) but may be the limiting factor if smaller protection areas can be applied for the missed approach at some point in the future.

After the first missed approach turn at WI614, the procedure guides the aircraft back along the valley up to the holding fix of Rattenberg (RTT), where 11,500 ft AMSL are required to provide enough separation with inbound traffics while flying the holding pattern.

IV. Safety Assessment and Flight Inspection

EGNOS is an extremely accurate navigation system. It is composed of satellites and ground stations that improve the accuracy of the Global Navigation Satellite System. The “ILS-lookalike” procedures can be seen as the most significant backup procedure for ILS in

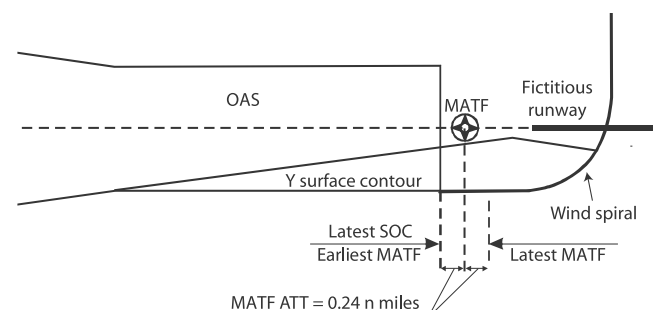


Fig. 12 Construction of the missed approach turn before the runway threshold (based on Ref. [13]).



- 1) Contributing to an accident of a commercial airplane is severity class 1
- 2) Contributing to a serious incident of a commercial airplane is severity class 2
- 3) Contributing to a major incident of a commercial airplane is severity class 3
- 4) Contributing to a significant incident of a commercial airplane is severity class 4

For flight inspection, data house Jeppesen provided a trial navigation database in raw Aeronautical Radio, Incorporated (ARINC) 424 format [29] to Flight Calibration Services (FCS)**: a German

**Data available online at <https://www.fcs.aero/>.

Table 2 Safety assessment table specific for the Innsbruck Airport

Function	Hazard and cause	Current risk minimization	Worst case operational consequence	Severity	Safety goal	Additional risk minimization	Postseverity
EGNOS signal in mountainous terrain	Loss of satellites/signal	Quality assessment of GPS/EGNOS signal through simulations and measurements on site Application of SBAS was possible	Missed approach	4	— —	N/A	4
Loss of GNSS/EGNOS signal during final approach or missed approach phase	Troubles with GNSS or EGNOS signal; loss of satellites/jamming/problems with equipment	Pilot should initiate contingency procedure radar vectoring—surveillance coverage available at all Austrian airports	Use non-GNSS approach	4	No greater than before	Safety recommendation: briefing ATCOs radar vectoring—in case the aircraft is still at or above the MRVA/SMA	5
Procedure design	Two deviations from ICAO DOC 8168 [13]: minimum bank angle in the missed approach greater than 15 deg, straight leg in intermediate segment less than 2 n miles	Procedure properly validated according to ICAO DOC 9906 [28]	Minimum bank angle: aircraft gets outside area for which procedure is not protected Intermediate segment: final approach course wrongly intercepted	3	No greater than before	Safety recommendation, flight validation: approach was positively evaluated in VMC, which endorsed proposed design Safety recommendation, intensive testing in an experimental simulator to discard flyability issues even under extreme wind conditions successful	4
Minima lines on the published chart do not distinguish between LPV or LPV200 operations	Where both minima criteria coexist, operators may mix the system minima, leading to a situation where a DH below 250 ft is considered for LPV based on APV-I criteria	Since published minima by Austro Control in form of OCH are already equal to or greater than 250 ft for LPV approaches based on APV-I criteria at target airports, there is no risk for operators confusing operating minima	Increased collision risk	4	No greater than before	N/A	4

N/A = not available

ATCO = Air Traffic Control Officer

VMC = Visual Meteorological Conditions

APV-I = Approach Performance with Vertical guidance one

SMA = Surveillance Minimum Altitude

professional flight validation and inspection company. In the first step of validation, FCS reviewed the received experimental navigation database for potential coding mistakes that could have occurred when transferring AIP data into the specific ARINC424 database format. Here, it was found that the turn direction toward WI613 was missing from the coding, and a typographic error pertaining to the waypoint's coordinates was discovered. This was consequently corrected by the provider. Next, the database was loaded into the Aerodata AD-AFIS-220 flight inspection system of the flight inspection aircraft with registration D-CFMD: a Beech 300 Super King Air 350. The Aerodata AFIS-220 calculates a precise reference position using a hybrid solution of barometric altitude, inertial platforms, and a precision differential GNSS. The GNSS data were recorded at 1 Hz. Flight validation was successfully completed on 3 June 2017 from 1058 to

1119 hrs Universal Time Coordinated (UTC). The weather was good, with variable wind direction and wind strength of 2 kt. Visibility was more than 10 km, scattered clouds were 7000 ft above the aerodrome, and the temperature was 26°C. Sea level pressure was 1015 hPa. Section 5.3 of Ref. [27] required the procedure navigation accuracy to be verified according to procedure design requirements, as specified in Ref. [13]. The requirements are a required crosstrack navigation performance (95% confidence interval) of 1 n mile in the initial and intermediate approach segments, and tapering to 0.3 n miles for the final approach segment, where the angular guidance calculation begins. For the final approach according to LPV, the total system error may not exceed more than half of the full-scale deflection. The navigation sensor error (NSE) should not exceed the horizontal alert limit of 40 m and the vertical alert limit of 35 m. During the flight

Table 3 Coding table used for LPV approach to RWY26 at Innsbruck International Airport (Austria)^a

Point	Leg	Latitude	Longitude	Distance, n miles	Course	Altitude, ft	Remarks
WI610 (IAF)	IF	N472322.41	E0114654.41	— —	— —	+9,500	— —
WI611	TF	N471944.76	E0114055.80	5.4	T228.3	+7,200	— —
WI612 (IF)	TF	N471821.49	E0113838.95	2.1	T228.2	+6,300	— —
WI613 (FAP)	TF	N471753.55	E0113547.48	2.0	T256.5	+5,750	— —
WI614 (MATF)	TF	N471544.57	E0112242.29	9.2	T256.5	— —	Flyover
WI103 (MATF)	DF	N471616.49	E0112647.56	— —	— —	— —	IAS ≤ 153 kt, bank ≥ 25 deg
WI612 (MATF)	TF	N471821.49	E0113838.95	8.3	T075.4	— —	— —
WI610 (MATF)	TF	N472322.41	E0114654.41	7.5	T048.2	— —	— —
RTT (MAHF)	TF	N472551.32	E0115624.19	6.9	T068.9	+11,500	Flyover

^aThe navigation specification used is RNP APCH.

TF = Track to Fix, DF = Direct to Fix, and IF = Initial Fix.

inspection, the AD-AFIS-220 measured a average crosstrack total system error from the designed path of -0.079 n miles with a standard deviation of 0.262 n miles by comparing the precision differential GNSS position with the one provided by the standard avionics. The total system error is the addition of the ability of the aircraft to follow a desired path combined with the error of the navigation sensor NSE. These values are fully within the limit of 1 n mile for initial and intermediate approaches. For the LPV final approach, the maximum vertical deviation reached 2.1% of full scale, and the maximum lateral deviation reached 0.3% of full scale. The final approach during flight inspection lasted 140 s, and lateral deviation data were sampled at 10 Hz. The maximum NSE during that time was 4.5 m horizontal and 0.76 m vertical as measured with the precision differential GNSS.

Section 2.3.1 of Ref. [27] requires the verification of adequate GNSS signal reception. This is accomplished by measuring the signal's carrier to noise ratio at the receiver front end [14]. Section 3.7.3.1.7.4 defines the adequate reception power of GNSS satellites to be above -158.5 dB · W. GNSS receivers usually measure carrier to noise ratio as a quality indicator of the received signal [30]. Typical thermal noise N at the surface of the Earth at 15 deg is

$$N = k_B T = 3.98 \times 10^{-21} \text{ W/Hz} = -204 \text{ dB/Hz}$$

Reference [14] stipulates a 3 dB gain in the antenna. Therefore, a rough estimate for the minimum carrier to noise density ratio is

$$C/N_0 = -158.5 \text{ dB} \cdot \text{W} - (-204 \text{ dB/Hz}) - 3 \text{ dB} = 42.5 \text{ dB/Hz}$$

The receiver front end design is a trade secret of each receiver manufacturer, and thus not publicly available. Note that advanced receiver technologies permit a tracking of satellites using a much lower carrier to noise ratio for the same received signal power. Hence, we stipulate that our approach to transferring ICAO requirements to carrier to noise ratio is very conservative. Carrier to noise data were collected during one approach from a time stamp of $39,692$ s of the day to a time stamp $40,030$ s. This yields a total measuring time of 338 s. At a 1 Hz sampling and tracking a total of nine GPS satellites, we collected 3051 samples. The mean value was 47.7 dB/Hz and the standard deviation was 1.4 dB/Hz. During the validation, the signal to noise ratio over all nine GPS satellites was ranging from 44.1 dB/Hz at an elevation of 30.2 deg to 50.57 dB/Hz at an elevation of 66.1 deg. The SBAS signals were received with 46.047 dB/Hz. Thus, the signal reception is adequate, and it indicates that there is no signal degradation due to interference. Of course, the flight validation provides only a snapshot of signal measurements. It is intended for the certifying authority to see that all the technology is functional. For this purpose, the data collection during one approach is adequate. More data would result in statistically more meaningful results, but flight time is costly; and, a statistically meaningful campaign to, for example, validate integrity at a 10^{-5} would require at least $100,000$ samples. At 1 Hz, this amounts to 27.8 h of flight data, which are too expensive for implementing a single approach. The flight validation report is provided as Supplemental Material.

V. Conclusions

The final procedure design is materialized through the corresponding coding table and chart shown in Table 3 and Fig. 13, respectively. The coding table contains a textual description of the sequence of ARINC424 path terminators required by flight management systems. Further information on path terminators and ARINC424 coding rules can be found in Ref. [29]. SBAS approach procedures also require the final approach segment data block, which encodes the geometry of the final approach path (see Table 1) into 21 fields including the cyclic redundancy check integrity field as per ICAO Annex 10 [14]. The combination of the coding table and final approach segment data block is of utmost importance because it conveys the procedure designer's intent to the end user. A small error in these datasets may result in a different approach path definition for which obstacle clearance is not provided. The outcome of the flight inspection

confirmed the positive results of the signal availability measurements and simulations. During the flight validation, the aircraft was forced to fly close to the edges of the protection areas to detect potential obstacle-related hazards. This can be done by flying the final and missed approaches at a slight higher speed, a lower missed approach climb gradient, and a minimum bank angle for a given DH. The results endorsed the two design criteria deviations and confirmed a good flyability. Despite the many challenges posed by the mountainous terrain in Innsbruck, it was shown that an SBAS CAT-I precision approach can be designed even where ILS approaches could not be implemented in the past.

A proper signal assessment to ensure availability for the required operational service level is key to a successful implementation in environments with complex terrain. The methods described in the Signal Analysis section (Sec. II) may be applied to other airports where signal reception and GNSS performance are unclear at the beginning of LPV implementation. Likewise, a thorough procedure design with many iterations may be necessary to find the optimum set of design parameters that makes the approach flyable. In this regard, the flight validation plays a critical role, especially if the procedure contains deviations to the standard design criteria.

Nevertheless, LPV approaches still require relatively large protection areas for mountainous environments. Authorization required procedures may be necessary to achieve a considerable reduction of the landing minima, thereby increasing accessibility, but only to a few operators. As shown here, the operational benefits of the more stringent SBAS CAT-I approaches (with vertical alert limit of 35 m) cannot be gained if the controlling obstacle is not located within the precision segment. Thus, SBAS APV approaches may sometimes be a better option over SBAS CAT-I in areas with challenging terrain. This can be critical in environments where average protection levels fluctuate right underneath the alert limits, thus raising the likelihood of persistent integrity events. However, this does not seem to be the case of Innsbruck for the time being. Therefore, in order to maximize availability, the implementation of legacy SBAS APV approaches is advocated in mountainous terrain if the corresponding SBAS CAT-I approach cannot bring along a significant operational benefit.

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